



# The Ames Intelligencer

Issue 4 of 4 ■ Ames Heritage Association Newsletter ■ Oct. 2002

■ The Ames Intelligencer was the first newspaper in the city of Ames ■

## Potter Tapped for New AHA Post of Community Programs Coordinator

On July 1, Cynthia Potter began work as AHA's first Community Programs Coordinator. AHA has received a \$20,000 grant from the Union Pacific (Railroad) Foundation to develop a "museum without walls" through a series of traveling "suitcase programs." The grant made possible hiring a part-time staff person.

As CPC, Ms. Potter will coordinate and, at times, present local history programs to various groups and organizations. The programs will include talks, lectures, and tours of local history subjects. Although operating out of AHA headquarters on 5th Street in downtown Ames, Ms. Potter will take the programs out of the museum to places where people gather--schools, fairs, exhibitions, and the like.

Ms. Potter has earned both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in History at Iowa State University. Her previous experience made her especially suitable for the new position. She has served as a special intern at the Iowa Department of Transportation, working as a photo historian. This interest was central to her Master's thesis: "Photo Finish: The

She has been a museum assistant at the Marshall County Historical Museum in Marshalltown. Her work as Activity Director at Ballard Creek Community Assisted Living in Huxley has given her the insight needed for delivery of suitcase programs to one of AHA's key target groups.



Potter Examines That Elusive Suitcase

Potter believes that a community that ignores its heritage can't know why it values the things that matter to it now. Understanding where you are requires knowing how you got there. What were early leaders trying to achieve for the community? Why may our goals now differ?

When we try to reconstruct past reality, even aspects that aren't especially admirable must be included. The purpose of heritage preservation "is not to generate warm, fuzzy feelings, not to wrap the past in grandma's afghan." With communities, just as with families, some of the heritage may not be admirable, but you still love them, nonetheless.

Potter's first exhibit for AHA, "It Can Happen Here," shows how various crises, such as war, illness, weather, and terrorism, have affected Ames. The exhibit appears in the main floor display cases of Youth & Shelter Services' Jacobson Building at 420 Kellogg in downtown Ames.

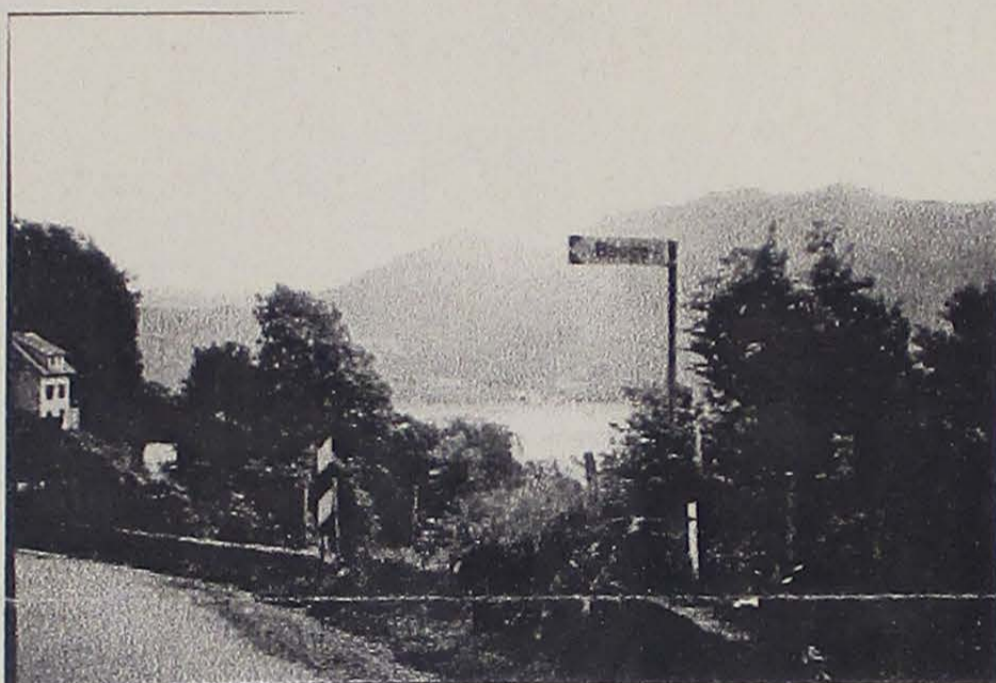


Memorialization of Death through Photography in Nineteenth-Century America."

## A Road Trip to the Bauge Farm in Norway

by Rollie & Willie Struss

This June we traveled to the original Bauge farm southeast of Bergen, Norway to see where the Bauge family emigrated from when they came to America. We took this side trip while we were in that region of Norway on a tour of the country. Traveling by rented car and ferries it took about three hours to go from Bergen to the farm in contrast to the seven days it took the Bauges 150 years ago. Some of the roads were regular two lane highways while others were narrow winding mountain roads that did not allow two-way traffic. Ferry rides are a regular part of travel in southern Norway as a way to cross the fjords dividing the countryside.



The Bauge Road Sign (all pictures by the Strusses)

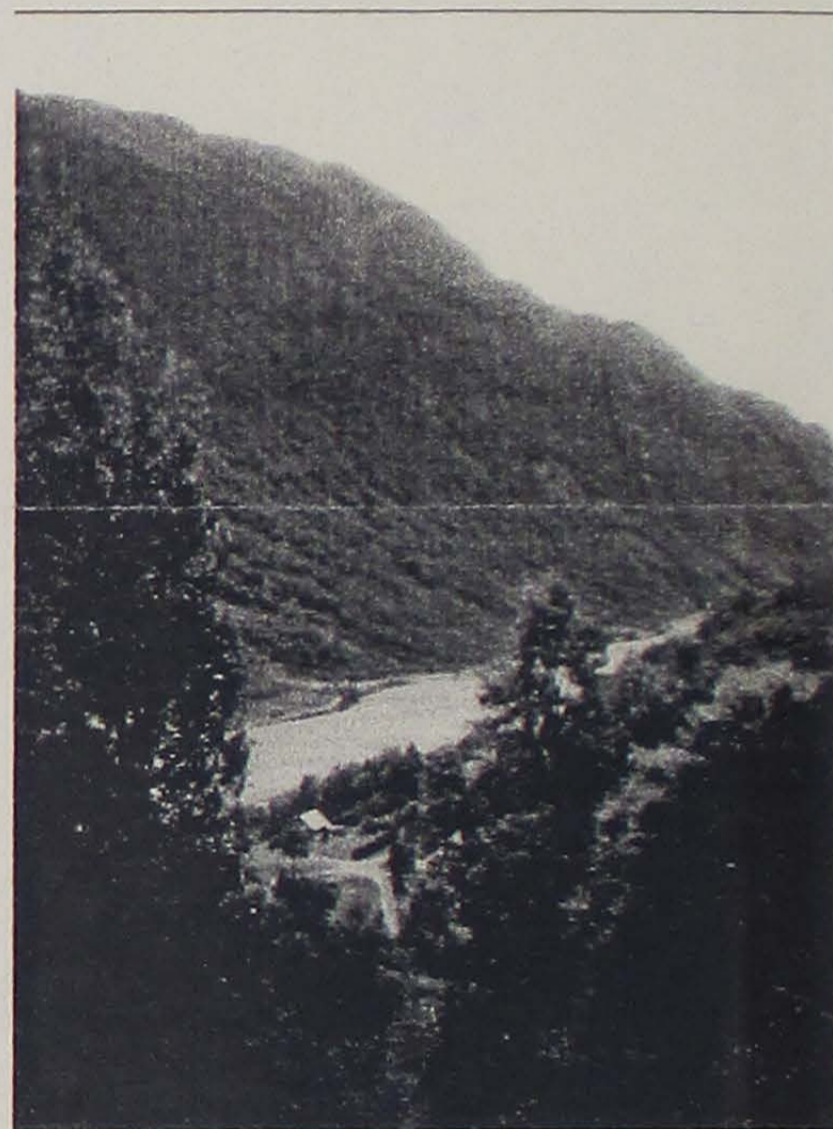
A relative of the Bauge family, Ansgar Bjelland, met our ferry in Rosendal and took us over the winding roads to get to the Bauge farm. The farm area is still marked with a road sign that says "Bauge" and points up the hill to the farm. From this point on, the road was a narrow gravel lane twisting through the area as it went up the hill. Meeting a tractor on this road was not easy as the farmer had to pull over at a wide spot to let us past. The lane ended near the top of the hill in the yard of the last house and barn located on the farm.



The Barn on the Bauge Farm Today

There are no Bauges living on this farm now. As the farm was divided many times through the generations, they have all left. There are quite a few houses and farmyards along this lane, so it appears that each resident now has only a small piece of the original farm area.

From papers we have seen, the original farm was described as an Inner Bauge and an Outer Bauge dating from about early 1500. A translation of Skaneviksoga done by Haugland in 1981 describes the Bauge farm as "one of the highest situated farms in the clerical district, about 300 meters above sea level, but it is no ordinary, simple mountain farm; here are wide fields and a big population from old times". This text states that the two parts, Inner and Outer Bauge, were each registered as a farm and the entire area is situated on the precipitous hills over the inlet of the Akerfjord, where the landscape flattens out toward the mountain hills.



The Terrain in the Bauge Farm Area

The farm may have roots all the way back to the Bronze Age or even earlier, with evidence of several heathen graves on each of the two farms. Inner Bauge farmers paid rent to a monastery, while nobility owned half of Outer Bauge and the monastery owned the remainder.

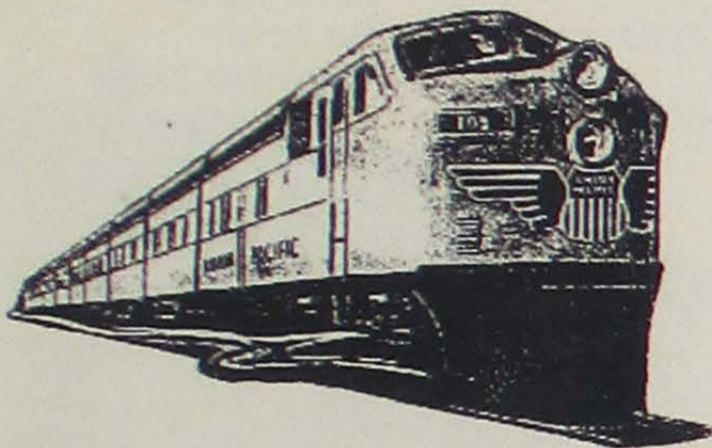
A Baron living in Rosendal gained ownership of part of the farm in 1670 and it remained as part of the Barony for 250 years. A freeholder purchased the land from the Barony in 1930. We visited the Barony after seeing the farm and found its history very interesting.

[continued in the next issue of the Intelligencer]

## "Nothin' Could be Finer"

[Glenn Miller's band made "Chattanooga Choo-choo" a popular song. The lyrics declared, "nothin' could be finer" than dinner in the diner. The Union Pacific Railroad offered streamliner service from Chicago to the west coast. In June 1936 the "City of San Francisco" entered service as the dining car for one of the trains. The "City of Los Angeles" was added in 1949. These cars offered "charm...expressed in the tastefully appointed interiors" and "in the unobtrusive courteous service." In 1971 the existing railroads eliminated passenger service. Eventually, in 2001, the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad acquired the City of Los Angeles and operates it on its Dinner Train runs.]

Shirley Boice, of Ames, often rode the Union Pacific between Ames and Chicago and was able to enjoy the luxury of the dinner. She recalls what the experience was like.]



The memories of dining on the City of Los Angeles and City of Denver began as an 9-year-old with my 7-year-old sister. It was not our first train ride but the first one on a beautiful streamliner. Our father put us on the City of Denver (or City of Los Angeles) in Chicago to travel to visit our grandparents in Ames. We were going by ourselves!

Father arranged for us to have lunch in the diner. How exciting--and frightening. When it was lunch time, my sister and I started toward the dining car. What an adventure--deciding which way to the dining car, trying to walk with the swaying train, and the noise as we went between the cars.

At last we arrived, were greeted and shown to our table. What elegance! White linen tablecloths and dinner napkins, fine china and glassware, lots of silverware, a rose in a vase, and a beautiful view. We watched the formally dressed waiters manage the trays of food down the aisle while the train was swaying. How did they do it without spilling and how could such wonderful food be prepared in such a tiny kitchen?

I found out, however, that riding backwards while eating was NOT for me. Next trip I "let" my little sister have that opportunity.

I had the dining car experience many times after that--some good and some not so good. None is as vivid today as that first time.

## Life in a One-Room School

[Although AHA's Hoggatt School operated only from 1862 to 1868, most one-room schools weren't that short-lived. They were common in Iowa during the first half of the 20th century. Only in the 1950s did consolidation eliminate virtually all of them. **James L. Graham**, who lives at 1526 Top-O-Hollow, attended Penn #3, a one-room school in north-western Madison County just south of Dexter on Old Creamery Road from 1939 to 1947. Part one of his reminiscences appeared in the July issue. Obviously, much had changed from the days of Hoggatt, but some aspects of that educational system endured.]

### The School Day

School would start after the teacher rang her bell, which was small but very loud. Everyone went to his or her own desk, with the younger children in the first row and the oldest kids in the back. A large windup clock also hung on the wall. We would stand for the pledge of allegiance.

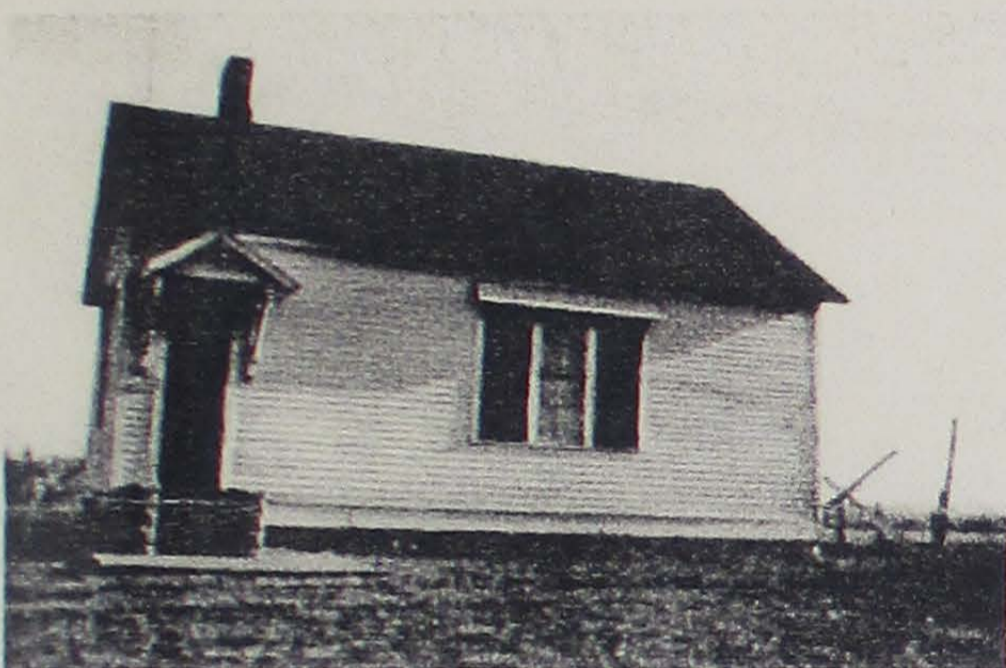
Then we had music. The school had a piano, although I can't remember any of my teachers being able to play it. We had a windup phonograph and sang along with the record. As the phonograph wound down the song went slow and s-l-o-w-e-r. The teacher would rush over and quickly wind it up.



Teacher and students at Penn #3 in 1947. "Jimmie" Graham towers above teacher Miss Stanley. Notice that he has managed to stand next to Gerry Stanley on his left. The other member of his grade, Keith Frederick, is to his right, next to Miss Stanley.

After music, the teacher would start with the 1st grade and proceed through all the grades until she finished with the 8th grade. Each group would be called to the front to do their lesson, with the teacher using the blackboard. Students had Big Chief blue-lined notebooks, which you could buy almost anywhere in Dexter for 5 cents. While one grade was reciting, the other students would do their assignments.

We got a 15-minute recess in both the morning and the afternoon and all went outside to play summer or winter. "Andy-over" was popular. One of the kids on one side of the schoolhouse threw a ball over the roof. The person catching it ran back to the other side to tag the kids there. Another tag game was called "The Fox and Geese." We played it in winter on trails that we made in the snow. We also played baseball. All ages and girls, as well, as boys, joined in the games.



Penn #3 in 1946 or 7. Electric lines have just been installed. Outhouses are behind the school building.

If we got into trouble, the worst possible punishment would be to miss recess. Once I put a cocklebur in a girl's hair and our teacher really came down hard on me. I spent several recesses writing, "I will not tease the girls" on the blackboard while the other kids were outside having fun. I never did that again! We also had assigned duties, like water detail, done by the older boys, or blackboard and eraser detail, where two students would be assigned to beat the dust off the erasers and wash the blackboards. These duties usually lasted for a week.

After school we all headed straight home, as there wasn't time for play. I had to skin the animals I had trapped, plus my evening home chores, such as feeding the livestock and gathering wood and cobs for the cook stove.

### School Mates

There were approximately 12 kids, from the little 6-year-old 1st graders to the 14-year-old 8th graders, that attended our country school. We all seemed to get along very well; I don't remember much teasing of the small children by the old kids. The teacher kept a close watch on our small group.

My grade had 3 students--Keith Fredrick, Gerry Struck, and me. Nonetheless, it was the largest grade in the school; some grades had only one student. I envied those grades because the sole student went at his or her own pace. In my "large" class I had to keep up with my classmates, both of whom were excellent students.

### PTA Meetings

Every month the school had what was called a PTA meeting. Since there wasn't any school business to transact, the men carried on about the war and the crops, while the women talked about canning and children. The kids ran around outside in the dark. PTA was late in the evenings, after the chores were done, usually a potluck dinner. We had so many great meals that way. I remember great home made mincemeat pies and chocolate cakes with thick frosting.

Sometimes instead of a potluck, the PTA met at mid day and ladies would bring a basket lunch to be sold to the highest bidder. By the time I was in 8th grade I had started to notice girls. I'd bid along with the other guys for the chance to eat lunch with a pretty girl, especially when it was my attractive classmate Gerry. The problem was that my dad was the auctioneer and when the bidding began to get a little pricey, he didn't seem to be able to hear my bid anymore. So somebody else got to have lunch with Gerry. Dejected, I finally bid on another basket. My lunch date turned out to be beautiful and a fantastic cook, but she was almost 30 years old!

Romance in the country schools? Yes, as it included the beginning of the teenage years. The boys talked about girls and joked about a boyfriend our teacher was supposed to have. But unlike today, things never got even as far as dating or cuddling. That was for high school, not grade school. Girls and boys passed love notes back and forth. If the teacher caught you, she'd read the notes to the class. Embarrassing!

Besides box lunches and potluck suppers, we would sometimes have entertainment at PTA meetings. Ruby Clausen would sing and Edith Hadley would read poetry. Our group of families didn't have much talent, except for a bachelor farmer. We thought he was a monster, since we were told to stay away from him. Many times, however, he was invited to play the piano at PTA meetings. He must have been good because all he could play was classical music that nobody had ever heard before. Still, we kids wondered why, if he was so dangerous, the PTA brought him into our school.

At Christmas there was always a Christmas play. All the students sang songs like "Away in the Manger" and "Silent Night." A little 1st grader might be baby Jesus and older kids would be Mary and Joseph. Our

teacher, Marcella Stanley, strung a wire across the room to make curtains, just like a big time play.

### Graduation

To be eligible for high school, we had to pass an 8th grade exam. Those who did would be invited to the county seat of Madison county, Winterset, to receive their 8th grade diplomas. This was a very big honor back then, almost as big as graduation from high school is today.

Since our 8th grade class had completed all of its lessons, our teacher decided that we should use our extra time to put on a play. After all, with 3 students we were the school's largest class. We presented "The Wedding Present" to our PTA and thought we were done with school. But then our school principal, Lorin Sayre, came to visit. Country schools had principals, just like town schools, except that they traveled throughout the country visiting their schools. Sayre insisted that we do the play for 8th grade graduation in Winterset. I about died when I heard this. Of course, our teacher was excited, as were our parents. This was an additional honor for my graduating class and our teacher.

I'd never seen so many people in my life as were present for graduation day. Hundreds, that's the way it looked to me. We were all very nervous, but we did the play anyway. I think it was a flop. They must have pitied us, because we still received our diplomas.

### Summing Up

I feel fortunate to have witnessed the end of an era. Most of the country schools closed down in the '50s. Now the country kids are all bused to modern schools. Are they that much better educated than we were back then in rural America in a one-room schoolhouse? Yes, I think so. Today teachers have a college degree, where those of yesteryear who taught in the one-room schools had only an 8th grade education. On the other hand, I believe that we learned some values in those one-room schools that are lacking in today's modern schools.

Ames Heritage Association Board: Pres., Kathy Svec; V-P., Carole Jensen; Sec., Letitia Hansen; Treas., Peggy Baer; Margaret Benson, Catherine Hunt, Lynn Jenison, Leo Lawler, Jorgen Rasmussen, Dennis Wendell, meets monthly.

AHA is a 501C3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs, and exhibitions and by the operation of two historic sites. Memberships start at \$25. Donations of historical material gratefully welcomed. Depending on price and suitable for the AHA collection, some items may be purchased. Office: 108 5th, Ames, 515-232-2148.

The Intelligencer, named after an early Ames newspaper, is sent four times a year to AHA members. Comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or [marti@isunet.net](mailto:marti@isunet.net).

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett. Open weekends June, July, and August and by appointment. The Bauge Log Home is east and north of the lake at McFarland Park, which is 1/2 mile east of Dayton Road at 56541 180th Street. Open Sundays during good weather months.

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #122  
Ames, Iowa  
50010

Ames Intelligencer  
Ames Heritage Association  
PO Box 821  
Ames, Iowa 50010

# Our Supporters Keep Ames Heritage Alive

## Life Members

Ames Rotary  
Ames Town & Country  
Kiwanis  
Ames Friday Noon  
Kiwanis  
Eldon & Marguerite  
Bauge  
Farwell & Ruth Brown  
Vivian R. Brown  
A. Louise Haug

## 2001 Patron

Jo Hicks

## 2001 Benefactor

Conrad Lawler

## 2001 Sustaining

Terry Adams  
Bill & LaDonna Allen  
Peggy & Roger Baer  
Robert Bourne  
Shelly Boyd  
Robert & Anne Buck  
Jen & Ed Buckingham  
Burt Drexler  
Bill & Phyllis Enquist  
Doug & Faith Finnemore  
Golden K Kiwanis  
Vince & Jean Hassebrock  
Olive Harrison  
Harold & Carole Jensen  
Bruce Kellogg  
Leo Lawlor  
Sandra & George  
McJimsey  
Martha & Jorgen  
Rasmussen  
Rudi-Lee-Dreyer &  
Assoc., Architects  
Rollie & Willie Struss  
Harry & Edna Svec  
Katherine Svec  
Robert & Lois Vohs  
Roy & Bobbie Warman  
Mary Watkins  
Sharon Wirth

## 2001 Friend

Pat & Louis Banitt  
Dr. & Mrs. Del Blum  
Ruth Boast  
Joyce & Rodney Brink  
Janice Burkart  
Ruth Grabau  
Margaret Gurau  
Isabel Henderson  
Joyce & Tom Hertz  
Bob & Jan Hildebrand  
Julianne Jorstad  
Janet Klaus  
Jere Maddux  
JoAnn Peterson  
Carol Pletcher  
Herman Quirnbach

Jan P. Severson  
Robert & Harriette Shearer  
Colleen Stuss  
Lillian Svec  
Ruth & Clayton Swensen  
Ruth Walker

## 2001 Family

Bruce & Nancy Adams  
John & Barb Adams  
Betty & Tom Barton  
Roger & Kay Beckett  
Janet Beer  
Jeff Benson & Margaret  
Elbert Benson  
Sarah & Ben Buck  
Stewart Burger  
Bonny & Ray Callahan  
Robert & Ann Campbell  
Don & Anne Charles  
William & Suzan Dreyer  
Robert W. Dyas  
Reiny & Maureen  
Friedrich  
Don & Doris Goering  
Hugo Kenemer & Letitia  
Hansen  
Dr. & Mrs. James Heppelwhite  
Lee & Gayle Huey  
Catherine & Dave Hunt  
Linda Just  
Ken & Beverly Kruempel  
Bill & Laura LaGrange  
Leonard & Mary Jo Larsen  
Dr. & Mrs. R.E. Lewis  
Dick & Jackie Manatt  
Lotus & Willmer Miller  
Coleen & John Nutty  
Jim & Frankee Oleson  
Shellie Orngard  
Delores Prior  
John & Suzan Shierholz  
Karsten & Sharon Smedal  
Sybil & Vernon Stone  
Story Co. Conservation  
Board  
Connie Vaclav  
Craig & Carole Voss  
Marvin & Janice Walter

## 2001 Individual

Martha Anderson  
John Angle  
Mary Atherly  
Elmer C. Aurand  
Pat Banitt  
Walter Barlow  
Elaine & John Bath  
Judy Bauge  
Mary Bauge  
William Becker  
Don Beitz  
Jacque Bell  
Mel & Jonnie Bell  
Neala Benson  
Kay & Roger Berger

Marguerite Erickson Berry  
Charles Boast  
Arlin T Branhagen  
Harry Brearley  
Roger & Barbara Bruene  
Winnie Bush  
Glen Buseman  
Charlene Caldwell  
Donna Carr  
Donna Cipolloni  
John & Judy Clem  
Sara Lawlor Collins  
Roger W. Coulson  
George Daniels  
Rev. Louis Dengler  
Miriam J. Dickson  
W. Emmett Dreeszen  
James Dresser  
Carol Elbert  
Helen Essex  
Marvin & Lydia Fjeld  
Tom Flack  
Christine Freeman  
Lucy Futrell  
Tim Garner  
Loya Getz  
David & Hanna Gradwohl  
Jane Graff  
James Graham  
Richard Green  
Helen Hainey  
Janice Halverson  
Virjama Hamilton  
Thomas Hannum  
Mrs. George Hargrove  
Virginia Skinner Harris  
Jan Haugen  
Loraine Hawley  
Maridee Hegstrom  
Dr. Dan Heppelwhite  
Nick Howell  
Etha Hutchcroft  
Rebecca & Walter Hyde  
Janet Jepeway  
Lynn Jenison  
Edward & Karen John  
Marie Johnson  
Betty Gulliver Johnson  
Kathy Kavanagh Johnson  
Tom Judge  
Clair Keller  
Laurel Hanway Kimball  
Helen Koch  
Marlys Ladd  
Joseph Lawlor Jr.  
Barbara Parsons Leach  
Wilma Lesan  
Linda Livingston  
Barbara P. Lockhart  
Ruth Matson  
Marion McKeown  
Nance Cole McMinimee  
Jim Menzel  
Mary Garner Metzger  
Dorothy Root Metzler  
Thelma Miller

Barbara Mitchell  
Gary Mulhall  
Ronald Moses  
Kevin Mungons  
Pauline E. Nelson  
Janet Olson  
Cynthia Duff Questers  
Dane 207 Questors  
Fredrica Shattuck #447  
Questors  
Onondaga Questers  
Darrel Rensink  
F. David Richter  
Frances Roberg  
Bob & Jo Rod  
Sue Lawler Rob  
Katy Seidel  
Wesley Shank  
Willis H. Skrdla  
David Smith  
Ian Smith  
Jacqueline Smith  
Amalia Sollars  
Jean Stange  
Avis Steensland  
A.P. Stempel  
Joanne Tedesco  
Harvey Terpstra  
John Tilden  
Dorothy Tschopp  
Dr. M. A. Ukena  
Univ. Women's Club  
Heritage Div.  
Mary Jo Valley  
Margaret Vance  
John van der Linden  
Roy Dale Voorhees  
John Walden  
Anita Wald-Tuttle  
Kay Wall  
Tom Walsh  
Dennis Wendell  
Darla West  
Mark Widrechner  
James & Janet Yoder  
Tanya Zanish-Belcher

## Other Donor

Robert D. Cody

## Grantors-Funders

City of Ames  
State of Iowa through  
Historic Resource  
Devel. Prog.-REAP  
Union Pacific Found.

Member ship records as of  
August 2002

*We regret any errors. If you  
have a question on your  
membership status, please  
call Leo Lawler, 233-1357, or  
e-mail naeleo@aol.com*